

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Grand Rapids Public Schools
Administration Building
1331 Franklin, S.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

October 12, 2004
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President
Dr. Herbert S. Moyer, Vice President
Mrs. Carolyn L. Curtin, Secretary
Mr. John C. Austin, Treasurer
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, NASBE Delegate
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bauer
Mr. Reginald M. Turner (via telephone. p.m. only)
Mrs. Eileen Lappin Weiser (via telephone)

Also Present: Mrs. Heidi Capraro, 2004-2005 Michigan Teacher of the Year

Absent: Ms. Sue Carnell, representing Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, ex officio

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Watkins called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

- A. Comments by Mr. Gary C. Peters, Commissioner, Bureau of State Lottery, Regarding Proposal 04-01 – added to agenda
- B. Discussion Regarding Revisions to the MEAS Ethics Policy – removed from agenda
- C. Report on Department of Education Cosponsorships – added to agenda
- D. 2004-2005 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C Infants and Toddlers Program – Amendment – added to agenda
- E. 2004-2005 Rural and Low Income School Program – Continuation – added to agenda

- F. 2004-2005 Title II, Part D, Enhancing Education Through Technology Funds – Initial – added to agenda
- G. Approval of Position Statement Supporting International Education and Memorandums of Understanding Regarding Cooperative Educational Exchange Programs – added to agenda

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority, as modified.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, McGuire, Moyer, Straus
Absent: Turner, Weiser

The motion carried.

III. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS, DEPARTMENT STAFF, AND GUESTS

Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, State Board Executive, introduced the members of the State Board of Education, Department staff, and guests attending the meeting.

IV. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS FROM GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. Bert Bleke, Superintendent of Grand Rapids Public Schools, welcomed the Board and guests. He introduced Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education members.

Mr. Watkins commended Dr. Bleke for the article he wrote “Focus, Consistency, and Commitment Drive Change in Grand Rapids Schools” in the Fall 2004 *Leading Change* Department newsletter.

V. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting to convene as a Committee of the Whole at 9:49 a.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

VI. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Watkins called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Comments by Mr. Gary C. Peters, Commissioner, Bureau of State Lottery, Regarding Proposal 04-01

The following individual presented:

- Mr. Gary Peters, Lottery Commissioner

B. Discussion Regarding Report of the Task Force on Social Studies Assessment

The following individuals presented:

- Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Chief Academic Officer
- Dr. Joseph Stoltman, Task Force Chairman, Western Michigan University
- Ms. Karen Todorov, Social Studies Consultant

The following Task Force members offered comments:

- Dr. J. Kelli Sweet, Executive Director, Michigan Council for the Social Studies
- Dr. Michael Libbee, Co-Coordinator, Michigan Geographic Alliance and Professor of Geography, Central Michigan University
- Mr. Roy Sovis, Chair, Michigan Social Studies Supervisors Association, Genesee Intermediate School District
- Honorable Michael David Warren, Jr., Oakland County Circuit Court

Mrs. Weiser joined the meeting via telephone at 10:25 a.m.

VIII. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.

Mr. Watkins introduced Mr. Robert Smart, Republican candidate for State Board of Education, who was in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Watkins said Democratic incumbent candidates who are also present are Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire and Dr. Herbert Moyer.

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS (cont.)

C. Discussion Regarding Recommendations from the Joint Task Force on Creativity, Arts and Cultural Education

The following individuals presented:

- Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Chief Academic Officer
- Dr. Yvonne Caamal Canul, Director, Office of School Improvement

D. Discussion Regarding Calculation of Adequate Yearly Progress for District Report Cards

The following individual presented:

- Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Chief Academic Officer

The following individuals offered comments:

- Ms. Laura Wotruba, Middle Cities Education Association
- Dr. Gayle Green, Macomb County Association of School Administrators
- Mrs. Rhonda K. Grochowalski, Grand Rapids School Board

E. Report on High School Report Cards

The following individual presented:

- Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Chief Academic Officer

F. Discussion/Presentation Regarding Report Card Performance Indicators

Due to time constraints, this item was moved to the Regular meeting.

G. Discussion Regarding Revisions to the MEAS Ethics Policy

This item was removed from the agenda.

H. Update on Intermediate School District Partnership

Due to time constraints, this item was moved to the Regular meeting.

X. RECESS

The Board recessed at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 1:10 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

XI. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

A. Approval of Record of Committee of the Whole and Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 14, 2004.

Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Mrs. McGuire, that the State Board of Education approve the Record of Committee of the Whole and Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 14, 2004.

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, McGuire, Moyer, Straus
Absent During Vote: Turner, Weiser**

The motion carried.

B. Approval of Record of Tenth Annual Governor's Education Summit

Dr. Moyer moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the Record of Tenth Annual Governor's Education Summit.

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, McGuire, Moyer, Straus
Absent During Vote: Turner, Weiser**

The motion carried.

XII. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MRS. ELIZABETH BAUER

Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Mrs. Curtin, that the State Board of Education add a statement on Ballot Proposal 04-01 to the agenda.

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, McGuire, Moyer, Straus
Absent During Vote: Turner, Weiser**

The motion carried.

XIII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Reports

- J. Human Resources Report
- K. Report on Camp Tuhsmeheeta
- L. Report on Modifications to the Michigan Monitoring Model for Special Education Programs and Services
- EE. Report on Department of Education Cosponsorships

Grants

- M. 2003-2004 Freedom to Learn (FTL) – Amendment
- N. 2004-2005 Special Projects Grants Under Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Funding for FY 2005 – Amendment
- O. 2004-2005 Competitive Mini Grants to Complete the Healthy School Action Tool Under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Special Projects Funding – Initial and Continuation
- P. 2001-2002 School Renovation, IDEA, and Technology Grant Program – Amendment
- Q. 2004-2005 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) – Continuation
- R. 2004-2005 Education for Homeless Children and Youth – Continuation
- S. 2004-2005 Michigan Teacher of the Year – Initial
- T. 2004-2005 State Improvement Grant (SIG) – Amendment
- U. 2004-2005 Mandated Activities Projects, Part B and Part C – Initial

- FF. 2004-2005 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C Infants and Toddlers Program – Amendment
- GG. 2004-2005 Rural and Low Income School Program – Continuation
- JJ. 2003-2004 Title II, Part D, Enhancing Education Through Technology Funds – Initial

Mr. Watkins said the “Superintendent’s Report – Highlights of Activities for September – October 2004” was mailed to Board members. Mr. Watkins provided details of his written report.

Mr. Watkins urged people to submit nominations for Michigan Teacher of the Year and Michigan School Support Person of the Year.

Mr. Turner and Mrs. Weiser joined the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

XIV. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

A. Milken Award Winning Teachers

Mrs. Straus said she, Mrs. Bauer, Dr. Moyer, and Mr. Watkins participated in the surprise announcements of two Milken Award Winning Teachers on October 11, 2004. She said the teachers are Mr. Chris McAuliffe, Oxbow Community School (Huron Valley Schools), and Ms. Lisa Wollet, Parma Elementary School (Western School District). She said these are two examples of the many outstanding teacher in Michigan.

B. Lieutenant Governor’s Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth

Mrs. Straus said she participated in the October 11, 2004, public hearing in Grand Rapids convened by the Lieutenant Governor’s Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth. Mrs. Straus said Mr. Watkins, Mr. Austin, Mrs. Curtin, and Mrs. McGuire were also in attendance. She said there were many people offering comments during the public hearing including Dr. Jeremy Hughes who offered comments on restructuring high schools.

C. Governor’s Education Summit

Mrs. Straus said almost all Board members attended the Governor’s Education Summit at the Lansing Center on September 15, 2004. She said she introduced Mr. Watkins who moderated a forum of parents and teachers.

D. Intermediate School District Subcommittee

Mrs. Straus said the Intermediate School District Subcommittee continues to meet and move in a positive direction with the participation of Mrs. Bauer,

Mrs. Curtin, Mr. Turner, Deputy Superintendent Ms. Carol Wolenberg, other staff from the Department, and representatives of the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators Programs and Services Committee.

E. Skillman Foundation

Mrs. Straus said she and Ms. Pam Wong, Chief of Staff, participated in an Education Initiative Task Force Meeting of the Skillman Foundation on October 2, 2004. She said the Good Schools Making the Grade Initiative of the Skillman Foundation will recognize and support Detroit schools for good performance and improvements in performance.

F. Michigan Coalition on Civic Education

Mrs. Straus said she will participate in a press conference at the State Capitol on October 13, 2004, for the advancement of Michigan's civic education. She said the announcement will be hosted by Senator Ron Jelinek, Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood, and the Center for Civic Education.

XV. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mrs. Straus presented Mr. Jim Abbey with a certificate honoring him for establishing a scholarship golf outing that awarded five \$500 college scholarships. Mrs. Straus thanked Mr. Abbey for nearly 30 years of service as a Department employee, and commended him for his dedication, leadership and concern for others.

Mr. Abbey thanked the Board and said he accepted the award on behalf of his colleagues who helped plan and participate in the outing.

XVI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Ms. Melanie Kurdys, 2267 Preserve Boulevard, Portage, Michigan 49024. Ms. Kurdys offered oral and written comments regarding curriculum in the Portage Public Schools.
- B. Ms. Laurel Evert, 5138 Windyridge, Portage, Michigan 49002. Ms. Evert gave oral and written comments about curriculum in Portage Public Schools.
- C. Ms. Suzanne Hosking, 17207 Sierra Drive, Big Rapids, Michigan 49307. Ms. Hosking shared comments regarding adequate yearly progress and acceleration for advanced and accelerated students.
- D. Dr. Gregory Dykhous, 491 Columbia Avenue, Holland, Michigan 49423. Dr. Dykhous, Academic Dean of Black River Public School, shared oral and written information on the operation and student achievement of Black River Public School.

- E. Mr. David Angerer, 2237 Eagle Boulevard, Holland, Michigan 49424. Mr. Angerer, Head of Black River Public School, provided comments on the effect of public school academies on the Holland community.
- F. Ms. Lee Suits, 8232 Indian Bay Road, Montague, Michigan 49437. Ms. Suits, President of Muskegon Area Public Schools Board of Education, provided comments on adequate funding for public schools.
- G. Mr. Cliff Crosett, 385 Colorado Ridge, Hemlock, Michigan 48626. Mr. Crosett, Superintendent of Hemlock Public Schools, shared comments on adequacy of state funding for K-12 public schools in Michigan.
- H. Ms. Amy McGlynn, 926 Merrifield, S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49507. Ms. McGlynn, a member of the Grand Rapids Board of Education, shared comments on Individualized Education Program levels and grade levels for adequate yearly progress.
- I. Ms. Karen Kehrwecker, 4585 Arlene Lane, Holland, Michigan 49423. Ms. Kehrwecker shared comments on her daughter's inclusive education experience.
- J. Ms. Sondra Kehrwecker, 4585 Arlene Lane, Holland, Michigan 49423. Ms. Kehrwecker provided comments on her personal experience of inclusive education.
- K. Ms. Barb Burton, A-6322 147th Avenue, Holland, Michigan 49423. Ms. Burton shared comments on inclusion and photographs of her son.
- L. Ms. Myra Dutton-Johnson, 2958 West Giles, Muskegon, Michigan 49443. Ms. Dutton-Johnson spoke about universal education.
- M. Mr. Fred Wurtzel, 1212 North Foster, Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Wurtzel, representing National Federation of the Blind, shared comments on Camp Tuhsmeheeta.
- N. Mr. George Wurtzel, 1220 North Washington, Lansing, Michigan 48906. Mr. Wurtzel, representing Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind, shared comments and written information on Camp Tuhsmeheeta.
- O. Mr. Bud Ferrell, 12346 Lippincott, Davison, Michigan 48423. Mr. Ferrell, Director of Camp Tuhsmeheeta 2004 Summer Program, provided comments and written information on Camp Tuhsmeheeta.
- P. Ms. Connie Engel, 7390 Oliver Woods Drive, S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546. Ms. Engel, representing Communities for Equity, offered oral and written comments on athletic equity.
- Q. Mr. Roger Williams, 2316 Union, S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49507. Mr. Williams shared comments on the Native American culture.

XVII. CONSENT AGENDA

- Z. Approval of Criteria for Allocation of Title I School Improvement Funds to Support Regional Assistance to High Priority Schools
- AA. Approval of Revised Funding Formula for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Grants
- BB. Approval of Recommendations of the Joint Task Force on Creativity, Arts and Cultural Education
- CC. Receive the Report of the Task Force on Social Studies Assessment
- DD. Approval of Calculation of Adequate Yearly Progress – removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under discussion items.

There was consensus to modify the motion on The Report of the Task Force on Social Studies Assessment to include a date specific timeline of December 14, 2004.

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Curtin, that the State Board of Education approve the consent agenda as follows:

- Z. approve the criteria for allocation of Title I School Improvement funds to support regional assistance to High Priority Schools, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 27, 2004;**
- AA. approve the revised funding formula for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act grants, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 27, 2004;**
- BB. approve the three recommendations of the work of the Joint Task Force on Creativity, Arts, and Cultural Education for the next 18 months, as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 27, 2004; and**
- CC. accept, with thanks, the report of the Social Studies Task Force, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 29, 2004, and commission the Superintendent and Department staff to study the report and return to the December 14, 2004, Board meeting with the Department's recommendations for implementation.**
- DD. (this item was removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under Discussion)**

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

XVIII. APPROVAL OF CALCULATION OF ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS FOR DISTRICT REPORT CARDS

Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Chief Academic Officer, presented Approval of Calculation of Adequate Yearly Progress for District Report Cards.

This is a continuation of the Committee of the Whole discussion from earlier in the meeting. Dr. Hughes reminded the Board that at the September 14, 2004, Board meeting a proposal was presented for discussion pertaining to school district report cards. After discussion, the Board authorized a proposal to be shared with the education community. Based on reactions and suggestions, the proposal has been revised.

Dr. Hughes said some of the public comments during the Committee of the Whole indicated confusion with *Education Yes!* that assigns A, B, C grades to school buildings. He said school districts are assigned an adequate yearly progress designation and not A, B, C grades. Dr. Hughes said in the case of a school district, all students in a grade level or subgroup would be combined to determine if the district as a whole met adequate yearly progress.

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Curtin, that the State Board of Education approve the proposal for calculating school district adequate yearly progress, including the proposal that the student achievement portion be based on whether or not the district as a whole made adequate yearly progress at two out of the three levels (elementary, middle school, and high school), calculated separately at each level for English Language Arts and Mathematics, as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 29, 2004.

Dr. Hughes said Ms. Laura Wotruba, representing the Middle Cities Education Association, addressed the Board during the Committee of the Whole supporting the proposal that a district be considered to have made adequate yearly progress (AYP) if the district makes AYP at one of the three levels: elementary, middle, or high school. He said there are nine different subgroups of assessment scores as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act, and Ms. Wotruba proposed that for the current year districts with a higher number of subgroups be allowed to make school district AYP by meeting one of the levels of AYP.

Mrs. McGuire said she supports allowing school districts to make AYP by meeting one of the three levels of AYP, and she believes all schools are working hard to make adequate yearly progress.

Dr. Moyer asked if the Michigan Department of Education has contacted the United States Department of Education regarding a factor in the computing that reflects diversity in school districts. Dr. Hughes said that although Michigan has not contacted the United States Department of Education with regard to this issue, other states have asked the question and been told the goal of No Child Left Behind is that all children succeed, and therefore will be held to high standards and not measured by

different standards. Dr. Moyer said diversity in our nation is a significant factor, and he would like Michigan to be a leader with regard to the issues of diversity. He said he encourages diversity.

Mr. Austin said key factors of student success are high-quality classroom teachers, and high, rigorous standards for all subgroups. He said not making adequate yearly progress is a reminder that there is more work to do, not a statement of failure. He said schools are successfully meeting the challenges, and the motion is a sensible compromise of meeting adequate yearly progress at two levels.

Mrs. Weiser said Michigan schools are at the beginning of a continuum and cannot rest as they work to achieve 100 percent adequate yearly progress, therefore she supports the motion.

Mr. Turner said he agrees with Mr. Austin and Mrs. Weiser, and he supports the motion. Mr. Turner said he is sensitive to issues of disparity. He said although the stance of the United States Department of Education seems harsh, there is an urgency to work to eliminate subgroup disparity, and he supports the efforts Michigan leaders are undertaking to achieve this goal.

Mrs. McGuire said she recognizes districts have a responsibility to help schools to meet adequate yearly progress; however she does not want schools that are not making adequate yearly progress to be looked down upon within their district.

Mr. Watkins invited public comment on this item.

Dr. Gayle Green, Macomb County Association of School Administrators, reiterated the Association's written statement that she shared during the Committee of the Whole discussion, supporting adequate yearly progress at one level. She said closing the gap is going to happen in the classroom at the school level where standards and expectations are firmly in place. Dr. Green said AYP for schools is about improvement and AYP for districts is about punishment.

In response to Dr. Green, Mr. Austin said the achievement of subgroups may be masked at the school level. He said when the issue of subgroups not making adequate yearly progress at the district level becomes apparent, it is the responsibility of the district, intermediate school district, and State Board of Education to meet the challenge.

Mr. Jim Sandy, Michigan Business Leaders for Education Excellence, said he favors adequate yearly progress at all three levels; however he supports the motion as a fair compromise. He said to do anything less would be a disservice to children.

Mrs. Rhonda K. Grochowalski, Grand Rapids School Board, who spoke on the topic during the Committee of the Whole discussion, said she fails to see how graduation rates can be a determining factor when State law says that compulsory attendance in school ends at the age of 16. She said if children are not successful in reaching a goal, eventually they will cease trying, and she fears the goal is too high.

Mrs. Straus asked when the proposal would go into effect. Dr. Hughes said this is the first time a district report card will be issued, and federal law states that if a district does not make adequate yearly progress after two years, then the district is considered to be in need of improvement, and the district is required to submit a school improvement plan. He said after four years of not making adequate yearly progress other sanctions apply, some of which are not permitted by State legislation.

Mr. Watkins said the Board and Department are committed to focusing resources toward high priority schools to help all students succeed.

Mrs. Straus said in order to reach the Board's goal, additional resources must be available. She said there is not sufficient funding. She said the Board is assuming their responsibility, but is calling on others to also assume their responsibility to provide adequate funding and resources. She said this must be a combined effort. She said she is very concerned about urban areas, and she wants to help rather than harm students.

Mrs. Curtin said this is not a punitive action by the Board, it is a compromise to comply with the No Child Left Behind Act.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Moyer, Straus, Turner, Weiser
Nay: McGuire

The motion carried.

Mr. Turner ended his telephone connection at 2:50 p.m.

XIX. PRESENTATION ON THE NETWORK OF MICHIGAN EDUCATORS

Ms. Jean Shane, Special Assistant, Awards and Recognition Programs; and Mr. David Borth, Chairman, Network Steering Committee; presented Presentation on the Network of Michigan Educators.

Ms. Shane said the Network of Michigan Educators has formed as an outgrowth of the Michigan Milken Educator Network. She said the Network has become an outstanding, energetic, productive group of professional educators who are committed to collaborating with the Board and Department in improving education in Michigan.

Mr. Borth shared a Powerpoint presentation on the Network of Michigan Educators. Mr. Borth said the Network is comprised of more than 400 educators who have achieved state or national recognition and have a mission to connect, enable, and engage the diverse gifts of its membership for the advancement of high achievement and excellence for Michigan students and educators. Mr. Borth introduced Steering Committee members Ms. Cindy Hasselbring from Milan, and Mr. Randy Cook from Howard City.

Mr. Watkins said the Michigan Teacher of the Year could communicate with the Network and request their input regarding Board agenda items.

Mr. Borth said the Network of Michigan Educators has developed a logo listing the Network as a collaborative partner with the Board and Department. There was consensus from the Board authorizing the use of the logo.

Mr. Austin said he is interested in the Network assisting high priority schools, and thanked them for their efforts. Mrs. Straus thanked them for sharing their experience, knowledge, and wisdom in a meaningful way.

This was a presentation only and no action was required.

XX. PUBLIC STATEMENT BY STATE BOARD PRESIDENT KATHLEEN N. STRAUS
ON BEHALF OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGARDING BALLOT
PROPOSAL 04-01

Mr. Watkins said during the morning Committee of the Whole Meeting the Board heard a presentation from Mr. Gary Peters, State Lottery Commissioner, on Ballot Proposal 04-01. He said, at that time staff was asked to draft a statement for the Board's consideration for presentation during the Regular Meeting.

Mrs. Curtin moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that the State Board of Education take a position to oppose Proposal 04-01, and authorize the State Board of Education President to communicate the State Board's opposition to the proposal, as allowed by Michigan Attorney General Opinion 4647, to all appropriate parties.

Ayes: Bauer, Curtin, Moyer, Straus, Weiser

Abstain: McGuire

Absent During Vote: Austin (Mr. Austin declared his support later in the meeting.)

Absent: Turner

The motion carried.

The Public Statement by State Board President Kathleen N. Straus on behalf of the State Board of Education is attached as Exhibit A.

XXI. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION REGARDING REPORT CARD PERFORMANCE
INDICATORS

Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Chief Academic Officer, presented Discussion/Presentation Regarding Report Card Performance Indicators.

Dr. Hughes said at the September 14, 2004, Board meeting the revision of the school performance indicators was discussed. He said during the discussion, it was mentioned that Kent Intermediate School District had been commissioned to study and recommend improvements in the indicators that would align them better with what is known about effective school improvement. He said at the Board's request a summary of the recommendations has been prepared.

Dr. Hughes said per the report's recommendation, the Department of Education has formed a study group to review the current indicators for appropriateness and priority. Dr. Hughes said the goal of the study group is to recommend improvements in the School Performance Indicators that will align them even more tightly with research-based school improvement, and which will increase the public's confidence that there is a relationship between a school's self-assessment and its success in improving student achievement.

Dr. Hughes said there are questions about whether changes can be Board approved, fully implemented, and revisions made in time to be included in the Spring 2005 self-assessment data collection from schools. He said school personnel need to be informed well in advance if changes are to be made.

In response to Dr. Moyer's question regarding timelines, Dr. Hughes said schools have been informed that the indicators are being reviewed and revised. Dr. Hughes said it is anticipated that recommendations will be presented to the Board in January 2005.

Mr. Austin expressed concern regarding the need for measurable goals that are valid and defensible. Dr. Hughes said the committee believes in measurable outcomes.

This was a presentation only and no action was required.

XXII. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MR. JOHN AUSTIN

Mr. Austin said he was out of the room during the vote on Ballot Proposal 04-01, however he wanted to state his support of the motion.

XXIII. UPDATE ON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

This item was removed from the agenda, because it was covered in Mrs. Straus's President's Report.

XXIV. UPDATE ON EDUCATIONAL LEGISLATION

Mr. Robert Morris, Legislative Director, presented Update on Educational Legislation.

Mr. Morris updated the Board on pending intermediate school district legislation and high school assessment date legislation. Mr. Morris said Senator Wayne Kuipers has been very helpful in addressing the concerns of the Department with regard to these two issues. Mr. Morris said Representative Brian Palmer has also been extremely helpful.

Mr. Watkins said that Senator Kuipers is a man of honor who kept his promise to publicly commend the Department and State Board if and when Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) deadlines were met. Mr. Watkins publicly thanked Senator Kuipers and Representative Palmer for their helpfulness.

This was an update only and no action was required.

XXV. RESCISSION OF POLICY REGARDING LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION POSITION STATEMENT

Dr. Jacquelyn Thompson, Director, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services; and Mr. David Brock, Supervisor, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services; presented Rescission of Policy Regarding Least Restrictive Environment and Inclusive Education Position Statement.

Dr. Thompson said at the August 2004, State Board meeting the Board approved Procedures for Determining Least Restrictive Environment in Accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, based upon the recommendations of the Special Education Advisory Committee. Dr. Thompson said because of this action, the Inclusive Education Position Statement and The Educational Assignment of Handicapped Children and Youth to Separate Facilities: A Policy Regarding Least Restrictive Environment are outdated and should be rescinded.

Mrs. Straus said she wants to be sure that this does not eliminate the option of center-based programs for families that desire that option. Dr. Thompson said the continuum of alternative placements is still imbedded in the federal regulations.

Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that the State Board of Education rescind the Inclusive Education Position Statement, February 1992 (Attachment A) and rescind the Educational Assignment of Handicapped Children and Youth to Separate Facilities: A Policy Regarding Least Restrictive Environment (Attachment B) adopted by the State Board of Education in January, 1984, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 27, 2004.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, McGuire, Moyer, Straus, Weiser

Absent: Turner

The motion carried.

XXVI. APPROVAL OF STANDARDS FOR THE PREPARATION OF PARAPROFESSIONALS

Dr. Flora Jenkins, Director, Office of Professional Preparation Services; and Ms. Krista Ried, Consultant, Office of Professional Preparation Services; presented Approval of Standards for the Preparation of Paraprofessionals.

Dr. Jenkins said a Professional Standards Referent Group was established to develop a set of standards to be used as a guide or template for the preparation and professional development of paraprofessionals. She said these standards articulate expectations for a quality paraprofessional as he/she assists in meeting the educational goals of our nation, state, and local communities.

Ms. Ried said paraprofessionals, as well as people working with and training paraprofessionals, were involved in the development of the standards.

Mrs. Weiser moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that the State Board of Education approve the Standards for the Preparation of Paraprofessionals, as identified in the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 27, 2004, and approve dissemination to the field.

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, McGuire, Moyer, Straus, Weiser
Absent: Turner**

The motion carried.

XXVII. APPROVAL OF POSITION STATEMENT SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Ms. Pam Wong, Chief of Staff and Director of Communications, presented Approval of Position Statement Supporting International Education and Memorandums of Understanding Regarding Cooperative Educational Exchange Programs.

Mr. Watkins prefaced the presentation by stating these are not exclusive agreements, and it is anticipated that other countries and programs will become participants.

Ms. Wong said we are living in a world that requires all of us to have knowledge of diverse language, culture and customs, yet vast numbers of our citizens are uninformed about other countries and cultures. She said many international delegations have visited the Michigan Department of Education and they have been extremely knowledgeable about our country's system of government, economy, and language. Ms. Wong said understanding other cultures does not necessarily require additional financial resources, but rather creativity in using existing resources such as museums, libraries, and people in the community.

Mrs. McGuire said understanding other cultures is always important.

Mrs. Weiser said her husband, the United States Ambassador to the Slovak Republic, said there is no diplomatic relations between countries, but rather diplomatic relationships among people.

Mrs. Straus said this has been an unfulfilled priority of the State Board for many years that is coming to fruition.

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mrs. McGuire, that the State Board of Education approve the position statement supporting international education and the memorandums of understanding regarding cooperative educational exchange programs with the Slovak Republic, the Secretariat of Public Education of Mexico, the Beijing Ministry of Education, the Chongqing Ministry of Education, the Education Bureau of Shaanxi Province, and the Tianjin Municipal Education Commission, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated October 7, 2004.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, McGuire, Moyer, Straus, Weiser
Absent: Turner

The motion carried.

XXVIII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

A. Presentation to Grand Valley State University Students – Mrs. Elizabeth Bauer

Mrs. Bauer said on October 11, 2004, she met with 140 Grand Valley State University students who are preparing to become teachers. She said the students impressed her with their ideas and desire to teach in urban areas. She said the discussion was extremely valuable.

B. Grand Rapids Welcome – Mrs. Marianne McGuire

Mrs. McGuire said she is pleased to have the opportunity to meet in her home town of Grand Rapids, where she attended and taught school.

C. Intermediate School Districts – Dr. Herbert Moyer

Dr. Moyer said as he travels the state on the campaign trail, intermediate school districts are a key topic of discussion. He said people ask about Department staffing reductions due to financial resources, and he says that intermediate school districts are valuable resources that are providing many services in partnership with the Department.

D. Teacher of the Year Report – Mrs. Heidi Capraro

Mrs. Capraro said he is having many great experiences as the Michigan Teacher of the Year. Mr. Watkins asked her to share a report at each Board meeting.

E. Junior Astronaut Science Program – Mrs. Eileen Weiser

Mrs. Weiser said she recently spoke with Captain Eugene A. Cernan, the second American to walk in space. She said he discussed revitalizing science and mathematics education in K-12 through a junior astronaut program.

F. Visit to People's Republic of China – Mr. Thomas D. Watkins, Jr.

Mr. Watkins said he and Dr. Hughes will be taking annual leave and visiting the People's Republic of China the week of October 17, 2004.

XXIX. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Watkins said the November 9, 2004, meeting will be held at Washtenaw Technical Middle College.

Mr. Watkins asked Board members to bring their calendars to the November meeting so that the 2005 meeting dates can be established.

XXX. THANK YOU TO GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. Watkins thanked Superintendent Bert Bleke, the Board of Education, and staff of Grand Rapids Public Schools for their hospitality.

XXXI. FUTURE MEETING DATES

November 9, 2004 at Washtenaw Technical Middle College
December 14, 2004

XXXII. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Curtin
Secretary